Message Text

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ACTION EA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

USIA-06 OMB-01 IO-10 SAJ-01 SAM-01 /068 W

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R 070836Z FEB 75 FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8269 INFO AMEMBASSY TOKYO CINCPAC

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E.O. 1052: N/A TWWS: MILI, KS

SUBJECT: PARK CALLS FOR MILITARY SELF-RELIANCE

- 1. DURING HIS ANNUAL INSPECTION VISIT TO MINISTRY OF DEFENSE FEB 6 PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE STRESSED TO SENIOR ROK MILITARY OFFICERS THAT INTERNATIONAL SITUATION WAS STILL TENSE, CALLED UPON MILITARY TO MAINTAIN SPECIAL ALERT DURING FORTHCOMING REFERENDUM PERIOD, AND EMPHASIZED NEED FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN DEFENSE AREA. BASIC THEME RUNNING THROUGH PARK'S REMARKS WHICH GIVEN MAJOR STORY PLAY BY ALL PAPERS WAS THAT ROK MUST DIRECT UTMOST EFFORT TO DEVELOPING SELF-RELIANT NATIONAL DEFENSE AND TO MAINTAINING, "A FIRMER DEFENSE POSTURE WITH OUR OWN ENDEAVORS AND BUDGET, WITHOUT DEPENDENCE ON OTHERS."
- 2. ACCORDING ALL PRESS REPORTS PARK SAID THERE WAS POSSIBILITY NORTH KOREA MIGHT LAUNCH NEW PROVOCATION TO DISTURB THE NATIONAL REFERENDUM POLL AND PEACE AND ORDER AND THAT THIS WAS NO TIME FOR PEOPLE TO INDULGE IN PEACE HOPES. HE WENT ON TO CHASTIZE "SOME INTELLECTUALS IN FREE WORLD STATES" WHO WERE OBSESSED WITH ILLUSION LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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OF PEACE AND THEIR UNWARRANTED DESIRE FOR DETENTE.

IN COMPLEX AND PRECARIOUS SITUATION WHERE EAST/WEST CONFRONTATION WAS CHANGING TO A NORTH/SOUTH ONE AND WHERE THIRD AND FORTH WORLD BLOCS OF STATES WERE EMERGING TO COMPLICATE ISSUES, PARK SAID HE FEARED SOME LEADERS OF WESTERN STATES HAD LOST THEIR WILL TO RIDE OUT THE CRISIS. GIVEN THIS AND THE FACT THAT ROK'S "ALLIES ARE FAR ACROSS THE PACIFIC OCEAN" THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA SHOULD ASSERT MORE DEFORT TO STRENGTHENING DEFENSE POWER, TO PRESERVE AMPLE MATERIALS REQUIRED FOR NATIONAL DEFENSE, AND TO GIVE TOP PRIORITY TO THE DEFENSE BUDGET. THE PRESIDENT CONCLUDED THAT THE NATION SHOULD STRENGTHEN ITS DEFENSE READINESS WITH "OUR OWN HANDS AND BUDGET."

3. COMMENT: THIS IS MOST EMPHATIC PUBLIC CALL PRESIDENT HAS MADE TO DATE FOR SELF-SUFFICIENCY IN NATIONAL DEFENSE. SNEIDER

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Message Attributes

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To: STATE

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